AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-41 and 53-73. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (Allowed) A method for treatment of inflammatory diseases comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (I):

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 CH_2
 CH_2
 CH_2
 R_3

wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;Z is

and, n is an integer from 0 to 6, or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 45. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_1 and R_2 are a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, or a methoxy group.

Claim 46. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

Claim 47. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein Z is

and n is an integer 0.

Claim 48. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein Z is

and n is an integer 1, 2, or 3.

Claim 49. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_4 is a group - $COOR_5$ wherein R_5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group having 1 to 8

carbons, an optionally substituted phenyl group, or an optionally substituted aralkyl group having 7 to 11 carbons.

Claim 50. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R₄ is a group - CONR₆R₇ wherein R₆ and R₇ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbons, an optionally substituted bicyclic unsaturated or partially saturated hydrocarbon ring group having 9 to 11 carbons, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted phenyl group, an optionally substituted aralkyl group having 7 to 11 carbons, or a heteroaryl-C₁-C₃-alkyl group, or R₆ and R₇, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a heterocyclic group which may further contain a nitrogen, oxygen, and/or sulfur atom.

Claim 51. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R₄ is a group - CONR₆R₇ wherein R₆ and R₇, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a 5- to 10-membered optionally substituted, nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group which may contain, in addition to the carbon and nitrogen atom, 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atom, the carbon atom on said cyclic group being optionally a ketone form or the sulfur atom on said cyclic group being optionally an oxide form.

Claim 52. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_1 and R_2 are a methyl group or a methoxy group; R_3 is a methyl group: R_4 is a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated; Z is

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and n is an integer 1, 2, or 3.